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NAZI "OVERGROUND" POSES FOR PORTRAIT

Ribbentrop's Diplomats Rally in Bonn

Businessmen? Trade union leaders? No: This picture shows an "old boy's rally" of men who used to help run foreign affairs for nazi Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, executed as a top war criminal in 1946. The photograph was taken on April 20th this year on the terrace of the Bonn residence of Gerhard Schroeder, West German Foreign Minister. The men in the picture hold top posts in the West German Foreign Ministry today; twenty years ago most of them were serving Hitler as Storm Troop colonels, SS officers, and diplomats.

For details of these men and their records, turn the page

NAZI "OVERGROUND" POSES

Here are a few notes on the gentlemen numbered in the photograph on the front page, reproduced from the Hamburg news magazine "Spiegel" of April 29th:

1. **Walter Weber,** West German Ambassador in Cairo. Weber joined the nazi diplomatic service in 1934, and served in the embassies in London, Oslo and Lisbon. Working as Ribbentrop's personal aide during the war, he signed the following telegram on October 2nd 1941: "In connection with telegram No. 701 from Belgrade, referring to the deportation of Jews from Serbia, the Foreign Minister wishes that the Reich Leader of the SS (Himmler) be contacted at once as to whether the SS can also take over 8000 Jews to transport them to eastern Poland or elsewhere." In 1942 he was promoted to Legation Counsellor First Class, and became head of the "England" section of the Political Department of the nazi Foreign Ministry.

2. **Sigismund von Braun.** West German Minister at the United Nations. (West Germany is not a member of UN but maintains an observer mission). Joined nazi Foreign Ministry in 1936, served in Consulate General in Italian-occupied Addis Ababa. Brother of Wernher von Braun, SS officer and nazi rocket ace.

3. **Franz Krapf.** Head of 2nd Political Department of West German Foreign Ministry. Served in nazi diplomatic service in Cairo Embassy (1939), Tokyo (1940). Files of the Reich Security Main Office show he was SS lieutenant and did intelligence work in Japan. (Nuremberg Documents, Soviet Central State Archives, Document 27).

4. **Hans Georg Sachs.** Head of Trade Department of West German Foreign Ministry. No details available.

5. **Hilger van Scherpenberg.** West German Ambassador to the Vatican. Joined the German diplomatic service in 1926, continued to serve in Foreign Ministry throughout nazi period. Married to a daughter of Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's "economic wizard".

6. **Josef Jansen.** Head of 1st Political Department of West German Foreign Ministry. No details available.

7. **Hasso von Etzdorf.** West German Ambassador in London. Joined the German diplomatic service in 1931. 1934–1936 personal secretary of nazi Foreign Minister von Neurath. Foreign Ministry representative with Wehrmacht Supreme Command 1939–1944. Nazi Party Member No. 3,286,356 (1933). Lieutenant Colonel in SA (Storm Troops). These details of his career are quoted from the official West German Parliamentary White Paper No. 3465 of May 1952.

8. **Gerhard Schroeder.** West German Foreign Minister. Joined the Nazi Party and Storm Troops in 1933. Schroeder told the US news magazine "Newsweek" on February 1st 1960: "I was a young lawyer and knew I could never get anywhere without being in the party."

* * *

Other members of the "old nazi diplomats club" present at the rally, but not shown in this photograph included the following:

Herbert Blankenhorn. West German Ambassador in Rome. Joined the German diplomatic service in 1929. Nazi Party member No. 6,977,147 (1936). In September 1941 he was one of a group of Foreign Ministry experts who visited Warsaw Ghetto, Vitebsk and Smolensk to study the "treatment" of Jews, Poles and Russians in nazi-occupied territory. He was deported from Switzerland in 1945 as an active nazi.

Manfred Klaiber. West German Ambassador in Paris. Joined the German diplomatic service in 1926. Member of the Nazi Party from 1934.

"W. Germany Makes Itself Ridiculous" – The Times

An exchange of newspapers between the GDR and West Germany might well be arranged as a step towards relaxation of tension, Walter Ulbricht, State Council Chairman of the GDR, stated in a speech on April 25th. For many years East German newspapers have been banned in the West, and vice versa. West German spokesmen immediately announced that the proposal was unacceptable. Commenting on the West German reaction, "The Times" of London wrote on May 4th:

"The West German Government is making itself ridiculous by hesitating over Herr Ulbricht's offer to allow a limited exchange of newspapers between the two countries. It has made three excuses. First, it says that Neues Deutschland is the organ of the east German Communist Party and therefore cannot be sold in West Germany, where the Communist Party has been banned by a decision of the Constitutional Court. Second, it would contravene Article 18 of the Constitution, which forbids abuses of the freedom of the press. Third, Herr Ulbricht cannot be allowed to select which west German newspapers he will admit.

"Legalistic quibbles of this sort confirm everyone's worst suspicions about the intentions and general outlook of the west Germans. They could be disposed of with a minimum of effort and good will. For instance – a counterquibble – Neues Deutschland is not the organ of the Communist Party but of the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands, which is not specifically banned in West Germany. Article 18 has already shown itself susceptible to fairly flexible interpretations. Anyway, is it too much to suggest that if the law really stands in the way of such an obviously desirable exchange it might be altered? As for allowing Herr Ulbricht to choose his favourite west German papers, this could, it is true, be awkward, but the two that he has named are "Die Zeit" and the "Süddeutsche Zeitung", both representing the best in West German journalism. It is high time the West German Government decided whether it really means what it is always saying about alleviating the plight of the East Germans, reducing tension, and upholding western values."

DISENGAGEMENT

By Richard Gott

Tucked away in the files of those who try to keep track of the disarmament negotiations can be found the details of Labour's plans. And very encouraging they are too. If words were deeds, a Labour Government could make great inroads into the iceberg at Geneva. Disengagement, the subject of this article, has been described by Harold Wilson in a recent speech as the Labour Party's "long-term objective" in Europe. It is clear that, in this area at least, Labour could take an important initiative.

In a document which Mr. Gordon Walker handed to Mr. Butler on January 8th, the following partial measure was proposed:

> "An agreement among the powers concerned not to add to the nuclear weapons already existing in East and West Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia and, if possible, other countries, as a first step toward the establishment of an area free of nuclear weapons and with reduced conventional forces under international supervision."

This plan, in essence, is comparable to the proposals put forward by the Polish Prime Minister, Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka, in December, and elaborated recently by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Adam Rapacki. The aim of the Polish plan is to lead to "the freezing of atomic armaments in Central Europe at the present level."

The Labour Party has suggested that the freeze should be supervised to some extent by the setting-up of observation posts within the Central European area. This is a concession to the United States, who made a proposal—supported by the British Government—that such posts should be established with a view to reducing the dangers of war by accident, miscalculation or surprise attack. The Russians have always taken the view that this kind of system would be conditional on the reduction of foreign troops in East and West Germany and the setting up of a nuclear-free zone in that area.

The Poles are clearly rather chary about the question of control. The Polish Government, announced Rapacki on March 5th, "wants to achieve its aim by the simplest possible means, and would not like this question to be drowned in unending technical discussions on the subject of control." Nevertheless the Poles are displaying a great willingness to negotiate on this subject. Provided the Labour Government is prepared to press really hard for this important, if limited, objective, the prospects for genuine denuclearisation and disengagement will be brought into focus.

Richard Gott, author of this interesting article on the theory and practice of "disengagement", reprinted from the London "Tribune", is a young British historian who has specialised in German affairs. He made his name in 1963 with the book "The Appeasers", written together with Martin Gilbert, a revealing analysis of the events leading up to the Munich Agreement of 1938. Richard Gott is today Research Assistant in the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Disengagement in Europe could take many forms: the denuclearisation of certain areas, the withdrawal of foreign troops, the completion of the neutral belt of countries from Sweden and Finland to Austria and Yugoslavia. But in fact no form of disengagement is ever placed on the agenda of East-West talks, because any likely scheme always founders on the rocks of the German problem.

This problem has been discussed in Britain off and on for the past 60 years with the result that most people have developed such an emotional block to it that they are prevented from even thinking about Germany in coherent terms at all. Unlike most European countries we have never been invaded by the Germans, and yet we have a national phobia about them; official Government hatred is directed towards Ulbricht's regime; Opposition dislike concentrates more on the shortcomings of the Federal Republic. And while some people like to forgive and forget, or merely reserve their judgment, how many of them do not occasionally say "Thank God for the Daily Express"—that paper which so devastatingly broadcasts the unspoken whisperings of the British soul.

These unspoken reservations manifest themselves in the great national indifference towards Germany which has settled on England ever since the setting up of the Federal Republic and the burning issue of German rearmament. The "German problem", for 50 years a British or an Anglo-French concern, has been internationalised; Britain has shed her responsibilities and, with the psalmist, has washed her hands in innocency. This unease about Germany has been reflected elsewhere: at a conference on NATO in 1957 "it was possible to sense on the part of many discussants (who came from all Western European countries) a deep-seated fear that a reunited Germany as the leader of a Central European security arrangement might soon lead to a resurgent and aggressively nationalistic Germany."

There are three main attitudes to take into account: the general Western position, the Russian position, and that of West Germany itself. The West has seen disengagement as a proposal for reunifying Germany, and, in the words on the cover of Michael Horward's book *Disengagement in Europe* (Penguin, 1958), "liberating Eastern Europe from Communist control". The official Western line, it should be remembered, is that Germany should be reunified within the NATO alliance. The Soviet line until as late as 1955 (the year West Germany joined NATO), used to be that German reunification was to be supported as long as Germany was neutral.

If we could get back to this position today, there might be a chance of a significant step towards disengagement being made. However, the Soviet Union, having gone through endless tribulation to support Ulbricht's East German regime, is unlikely at this stage to renounce the East Germans' right to be communist. It is unthinkable that Khrushchev could contemplate a diminishing of Communist influence. Firstly his actions all over the world, notably in Cuba, suggest that he is not prepared to sacrifice any Communist regime actually in being. (His attitude towards unsuccessful Communist parties is, of course, a good deal more ruthless.) Secondly, ideological pressure from China is likely to keep him actively in support of Communist regimes.

Despite the Soviet lack of enthusiasm for German reunification, they

have consistently favoured the idea of disengagement. In a memorandum presented at Geneva on January 28 this year, they announced their readiness to reduce their forces "on the territory of the German Democratic Republic and other European states if the Western powers begin cutting their troops in the Federal Republic and other countries". It is difficult, however, for them to make much progress in this direction while the West takes such a rigid line about the non-existence of East Germany.

On February 3rd the East German Government proposed declaring East and West Germany a permanently denuclearised zone. An American spokesman at Geneva said that the United States delegation returned the East German document unread: "It came in a blank envelope and when we opened it and saw where it came from we put the papers right back in the envelope and sent it back. We don't even know what they said."

The attitude of the Germans themselves is the chief stumbling block to disengagement. The West Germans, if they were to have their own way, would accept nothing less than reunification within NATO, plus the rectification of the Oder-Neisse line, the restoration of East Prussia, and probably the alteration of the Sudeten frontier with Czechoslovakia.

These are their maximum demands. Unacceptable as these demands are to the East and, one would guess, to public opinion in the West, it must also be noted that any solution which is imposed on the Germans from the outside is likely to arouse such bitterness and resentment within Germany as possibly to negate any positive feelings of stability which the original solution was designed to achieve.

Put like this, any meaningful solution to the German problem seems to be not-discussable — and unless this is discussed disengagement itself is a virtual dead letter.

If these, the political problems, are difficult enough to solve, it must be emphasised from the outset that the military objections to disengagement do not necessarily lead to an increase in "security". Hence military men who put forward such proposals are often looked at askance, and civilians are largely ignored. This is the real reason why disengagement is no longer discussed.

It is the task, therefore, of those who support the proposal to examine the military objections, to look at the existing state of "security" in Central Europe, and to suggest reasons why a change in the situation towards disengagement could only be for the best. First I must set out a personal doubt. It is often believed that the aim of disengagement is to reunify Germany and to "liberate" Eastern Europe from Russian control.

I do not myself believe that either of these two aims is likely to be achieved in the foreseeable future. The resultant chaos if it were, would, I believe, be more likely to lead to war than the maintenance of the *political* status quo.

In other words, I am not particularly concerned by the nature of the regimes in Central Europe, including East Germany, but I am anxious that they should be neutralised, and withdrawn from the major cold war struggle between Russia and America. Once outside this grouping, there is some chance that their evolution might take on less perverted forms.

The military objections to disengagement in Central Europe centre round the fact that it would strike at the roots of NATO's "interdiction" strategy. NATO is geared to halting a Russian attack by means of a nuclear strike against Russian supply lines in Eastern Europe. If this were a demilitarised or even just a denuclearised area guaranteed against a nuclear attack by the great Powers (as in the Rapacki Plan), the strategy of interdiction would fail. NATO's plans for the "forward" defence of Western Europe would have to be radically altered.

This constitutes the first military veto of the proposals; the second is like unto it, namely that a demilitarised zone in Central Europe or a zone from which foreign troops had been withdrawn would result in the NATO forces clutching rather desperately to the periphery of Europe—Scandinavia and France—both areas where neutralist or anti-American feelings are already strong. Indeed, de Gaulle's idea of "disengagement" involves an area from the Atlantic to the Urals; logical but unrealistic.

It is difficult to counter the arguments of the military with military proposals. We have to strike, not at the logical extension of their arguments, but at their false premises. And our basic beliefs refute theirs. Firstly we hold it as a self-evident truth that the theory of deterrence cannot operate in all circumstances. The distinction between weapons that are designed to be used and those that are designed to deter has become purely marginal. The concept of deterrence supported by an ever-increasing arms-race is one that must be continually challenged, whether in a discussion on disengagement or elsewhere.

Our second belief rejects the idea that the Soviet military threat is an ever-unchanging constant. With imminent revolution in Africa, Asia and Latin America, what Soviet ruler is going to spoil his chances of success by intemperate action in Europe? War between highly developed countries today has become improbable, not because of the piling-up of armaments on either side, but because of the knowledge that nuclear weapons can be made and that highly mechanised indiscriminate warfare is no longer tolerable.

To this underlying fact, military strategies are irrelevant, and the general plea for disengagement is a recognition of this fact. Disengagement, it should be understood, is not an end in itself, but a deliberate step towards the winding-up of the European aspect of the Cold War.

The point to be made here, and one which the Labour Party official spokesmen do not yet seem to have grasped, is that disengagement is not just one of the many proposals which could be put forward to ease international tensions. It is not merely a step on the road to disarmament. It is, of course, relevant in that context,

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but more importantly it has become *the only way out* of the present strategic impasse within the Western alliance.

The problems of command and control of nuclear weapons within NATO have not been satisfactorily solved. It is in their very nature that they never will be. At present there is an unchecked trend towards proliferation. Governments pay lip service to the need to call a halt to this development.

The United States Government, in particular, has been frightened into using strong words by the thought of losing her nuclear monopoly. "The US Government", announced a recent press release, "is opposed to the proliferation of independent national forces. It believes that such forces are wasteful and contribute to political divisions in the world, that they complicate the problems of seeking disarmament agreements, and that they increase the chances of war through accident or error by creating new, independent centres capable of making decisions on the use of nuclear weapons."

These are important arguments, but they will not receive general acceptance until nations, including America itself, begin to realise that security cannot rest permanently on nuclear foundations. And in Europe itself, only a move towards disengagement from the Cold War can lead to a breakthrough in the tangle of policies which have failed to prevent proliferation. The multilateral force has been proposed by the Americans as a way to prevent Germany from obtaining nuclear weapons of her own. Gordon Walker has reluctantly announced that if this indeed is the only way to prevent West Germany from becoming a nuclear power, then a Labour Government might have to support it. It is our job to point out that there is only one alternative: we can only prevent Germany from becoming a nuclear power by renouncing our own attachment to nuclear weapons and by insisting that Central Europe be denuclearised. The Poles and Harold Wilson have suggested that they think this is possible. We, for our part, must keep up the pressure in favour of disengagement, and ensure that Opposition blueprints of policy become effective when Labour comes to power.

(from TRIBUNE, APRIL 24th, 1964)

WEST GERMAN COURT REVERSES NUREMBERG

A West German court has in effect reversed the decisions of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, which in 1946 sentenced leading nazis for war crimes. On April 27th, Wuppertal Provincial Court sentenced Lorenz Knorr, member of the executive of the German Peace Union, progressive West German Party, to a fine of 2000 marks (about £180) for publicly stating his agreement with the judgment at Nuremberg handed down by the judges of Britain, France, USA and the Soviet Union.

The sentence, which is being appealed, is the latest step in a complicated series of court actions brought by former nazi generals in an attempt to clear their names of war crime guilt. Here is a summary of the case so far:

1. On July 21st 1961, Lorenz Knorr, in a public speech in Solingen, West Germany, quoted the Nuremberg verdict and named a number of West German military leaders as "mass murderers". The persons he named were General Ferdinand Foertsch, then Inspector General of the Bundeswehr, and a convicted war criminal; General Adolf Heusinger, then Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Washington; General Hans Speidel, then Commander of NATO Central European Ground Forces; Admiral Friedrich Ruge, then head of the West German navy; and General Josef Kammhuber, then head of the West German Luftwaffe. All these men have since retired; all of them held top ranks in Hitler's Wehrmacht. Herr Knorr based his charges on the passage of the Nuremberg verdict which stated that the leadership of the nazi General Staff and High Command "actively participated in these crimes, or sat silent and acquiescent, witnessing the commission of crimes on a scale larger and more shocking than the world has ever known".

2. The generals named, who felt themselves to be libelled, urged legal action, but found great difficulty in finding a state prosecutor ready to accept the case. They finally located Rudolf Reuter, State Prosecutor in Wuppertal, himself sought by the Czechoslovak authorities as number A 38/37 on their war crimes list.

3. At the end of May 1963, Lorenz Knorr was brought before the court at Solingen to answer charges of criminal libel. The court, obviously uneasy at trying a case which had created world-wide attention, ruled that Knorr "had gone too far" and that the term "mass murderer" was unnecessarily strong when used to describe the co-guilt of the generals in war crimes. The court found Knorr guilty on a point of law, and fined him 300 marks – about £4 for each of the men who felt they had been libelled.

4. The generals, outraged at the light sentence, appealed, and the appeal was heard by the Wuppertal Provincial Court on April 27th 1964. The court, once again faced with the difficult choice between passing a harsh sentence and thus directly challenging the Nuremberg verdict, and acquitting Knorr and thus confirming that West Germany's leading military men are in fact mass murderers, ruled that "events of world history" such as the Second World War and the Nuremberg Trials are not justiciable, that is to say cannot be ruled upon by the courts. The judges refused to admit in evidence nazi documents showing that the generals had in fact comitted war crimes, and sentenced Knorr to a fine of 2000 marks (about £180).

5. Lorenz Knorr immediately announced that he would appeal the verdict to a higher court, and that in the meantime he would continue to tell the truth about the generals and their connection with nazi war crimes. In addition he would launch legal proceedings against the prosecuting authorities of West Germany for "dereliction in office" in that they had not opened proceedings against the generals for their crimes.

GDR YOUTHS HELD

The West German police have arrested six young GDR citizens who travelled to West Germany to invite youth organisations there to send delegations to attend the Whitsun Youth Rally in East Berlin.

The authorities announced that the six young men would be put on trial charged with "espionage" and the "continuation of prohibited activities". Their "prohibited activities" consisted of carrying letters of invitation to various legal youth bodies in West Germany.

The six GDR youths are being held in Braunschweig Jail, from which convicted war criminal Hans-Walter Zech-Nentwich escaped on April 22nd. (See page 79)

Planning Pegasus?

By Helga Preuss

In the last week of April writers, actors and artists from all parts of the GDR assembled in the industrial town of Bitterfeld for the "Second Bitterfeld Conference". They met to review achievements in the field of the arts since 1959, when the first cultural conference in Bitterfeld had discussed the vast subject of the arts in a socialist society, and to consult on what should be done next.

Bitterfeld is the centre of the chemical industry, which is extremely important to the GDR and is being developed rapidly. It was chosen for the conference on art and literature because a team of workers in the big chemical combine there decided early in 1959 to try to live and learn, as well as to work, in a socialist way, to improve their qualifications and plan their social and cultural life together. Other brigades in the GDR took up this idea.

What was new about the first cultural conference was the fact that workers began to "interfere" in cultural matters, that they were no longer content to be mere "consumers." This big conference was not just another sign of the German love of holding meetings; it was the logical consequence of cultural developments in a socialist state, for cultural revolution is bound to follow a socialist revolution in any country. Once the working class has taken over control it must equip itself to run the state, and the education which they received before the revolution is not enough.

It was no easy task for workers to overcome the heritage of the past and develop into an educated and cultured class. The educational privileges of the former ruling class were abolished immediately after the collapse of fascism, working class children were given every opportunity to attend universities — in far greater numbers than is possible in capitalist countries — general education was vastly improved and adult educational facilities expanded enormously.

Thus the workers in Bitterfeld who determined five years ago to push forward along the road to a higher culture, which was a logical result of the new role of the working class, were no longer the uneducated workers of fourteen years earlier; but they also realised how much they still had to learn in the cultural field. They wanted to learn what would be useful to them, so they began to subject GDR artists' work to a close and critical inspection. The Socialist Unity Party, recognising the significance of these new ideas, took them up at Bitterfeld with artists, writers and workers in detailed discussions on how culture was to develop in a socialist GDR.

An important principle which emerged from the discussions was that the working class is the heir to all the useful achievements of capitalism and preceding social orders and that this is true of culture as well. It is not the aim of socialist culture merely to develop "proletcult" a proletarian culture which rejects the cultural heritage of the past; the works of proletarian artists are an important element, but a socialist culture must include all that is genuinely progressive in the entire culture of past epochs.

The German classics have been read in all schools and often, unfortunately, quickly forgotten again, because teaching methods did not generally tend to encourage children to study them further. But there are outstanding exceptions; in the little village of Bauerbach, for instance, nearly everybody knows and loves his Schiller and they have built their own open-air theatre and performed a number of his plays, with the help of a "patron" theatre.

This kind of creative take-over of the national cultural heritage is combined with a campaign against pseudo-art, worthless books, poor films, cheap ornaments and so on. All books which in any way glorify war, brutality or the fascist past are banned in the GDR, and there is a big struggle going on against the less harmful manifestations of non-culture.

But people need an ideal. This is the aim and object of all art. Workers in the GDR look for their ideal amongst those who, like that pioneer Bitterfeld brigade, are trying to point the way to socialism, to a better future, through their way of life. These are the people portrayed from a great variety of viewpoints in new art in the GDR.

The problems facing our society today are dissected and held up to ruthless criticism, mistakes and contradictions exposed and solutions offered. Working people are presented with the ideal of a new attitude to work — the attitude of people working for themselves and enjoying the fruits of their work, for art must help to overcome the estrangement from work which arose under capitalism, when workers were paid for their labour but enjoyed none of the surplus value created, so that work for them was a necessity only and they found themselves only outside their work.

Under socialism the unity between a worker and his product can quickly be restored from a purely economic point of view, but it is much more difficult to overcome the idea of the gulf between work and personal life which has been impressed upon workers' minds for generations. This is one of the main tasks of artists today, and in order to succeed in it they must themselves understand social developments and help them forward.

In capitalism the artist, too, became estranged from society, but he can overcome this in socialism, for here he again has the opportunity to become a member of a group and represent a social cause.

Artists in the GDR are today making contracts with socialist enterprises which give them the necessary security for their creative work alongside daily contact with workers' problems; at the same time workers are learning that art in all its forms is not something "special" reserved for others.

The artists, together with workers, are organising dramatic groups, music circles and so on. Today there are about 3,500 workers' and farmers' theatre groups, 1,000 painting and sculpturing circles, 100 amateur symphony and chamber orchestras, many thousands of dance bands and brass bands, about 5,000 choirs and folk song groups, 400 amateur film circles and studios, 170 folk art ensembles and 300 worker-writer circles.

The best of these, guided by professional artists and given financial assistance by the government, are the main source of new professional talent; they have the great advantage that they need no longer contend with the problem of the artist's estrangement from the people.

These developments have also contributed much to improving the quality of so-called "light entertainment". Dance music and popular songs are improving.

As a result of the expansion of genuine culture the problem of "what to do in one's spare time" is also being overcome. Not everything is going smoothly, of course; there is still the question as to the degree to which "Pegasus can be planned" — the problem of how to reconcile political aims with freedom of artistic expression.

SS CRIMINAL SPRUNG

"ODESSA" Active Again

The SS officer who walked out of Braunschweig Prison, West Germany on April 22nd, after being sentenced to four years imprisonment for his part in a pogrom at Pinsk in 1941, has turned up in Cairo, according to West German press reports.

The man who escaped so easily was Hans-Walter Zech-Nenntwich, 47-year-old murderer, swindler and multiple agent. He told reporters in Cairo that he had been aided in his flight by "an organisation of former officers of all shades from grey to black". He was obviously referring to the field-grey uniforms of the regular Wehrmacht, and the black uniforms of the SS, Hitler's elite guard. GERMAN REPORT disclosed exclusively on May 1st that Zech-Nenntwich's escape had been arranged by ODESSA, the underground SS organisation in West Germany. He boasted to journalists in Cairo that the jail-break organisation would soon spirit away other war criminals held in West German prisons.

Zech-Nenntwich's flight was only the latest episode in a very chequered career. Some of his activities are still clothed in mystery, but here are some of the details which are today public knowledge:

In the early nazi days, he worked his way up to the rank of lieutenant in the SS. In this capacity he took part in the mass murders in Pinsk for which he was belatedly and lightly sentenced this year. In 1943 he turned up in Sweden, claiming to have deserted from the SS after being implicated in black-market arms deals. British intelligence officers accepted him at face value as leader of an anti-nazi resistance group in the SS, and flew him to London. *(During his trial in West Germany this year, Zech-Nenntwich claimed to have been acting as an undercover agent for the nazis when he went to Britain. This claim is impossible to check, but may be borne out by the fact that the SS underground staged his recent "rescue" from prison.)*

In Britain in 1944, Zech-Nenntwich was attached to the "Black Propaganda" section run by British journalist Sefton Delmer. In his book "Black Boomerang" (London 1962), Delmer tells of the curious job Zech-Nenntwich had to do there. He wrote propaganda broadcasts for a pseudo-underground radio station which had as its theme "Hitler is betraying you — Hurrah for Himmler". This far-out programme was designed to confuse the German war effort.

When the war ended, Zech-Nenntwich somehow prevailed upon the British authorities to give him the job of screening suspected SS war criminals. This was applying the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief with a vengeance, and many SS officers slipped through the allied net with Zech-Nenntwich's assistance.

The screening job soon came to an end, but thanks to his influential friends he was established in 1947 as a high government official in the British-sponsored provincial government in North-Rhine-Westfalia. Here he shared an office with Gerhard Schroeder, up-and-coming lawyer, who is today West German Foreign Minister. Schroeder was a close acquaintance, and one of the guests at Zech-Nenntwich's wedding in 1948.

Soon he tried to break into politics at the top level. In his book, Sefton Delmer describes how in January 1950 Zech-Nenntwich was received by Chancellor Adenauer for a two-hour talk, in the course of which he told all he knew about genuine anti-nazi Germans who had worked for the Allies during the war. Some of these men had later become active in West German politics in opposition to Adenauer.

Adenauer was glad to have the information for his files, but he apparently found Zech-Nenntwich too slippery for a political career. Zech-Nenntwich's acquaintance with State Secretary Hans Globke is believed to date from this time; Globke testified in his defence at the recent war crimes trial.

Since 1950 Zech-Nenntwich is known to have worked for various cloak-and-dagger organisations in West Germany, besides involving himself in various swindles which brought him a Swiss bank account of over one million marks.

Finally last month, justice appeared to have caught up with him: but calling upon his old comrades of the SS, Zech-Nenntwich walked out of prison and disappeared.

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Travel Ban on Top GDR Scientist

The western occupation authorities in West Berlin have refused to grant travel papers to noted GDR scientist Professor Manfred von Ardenne, who had been invited to Toronto, Canada, to address the "World Conference on Electron Beam Technology".

Professor von Ardenne, one of the pioneers of television, is today a leading member of the GDR Atomic Power Commission.

GERMAN REPORT comments: *All NATO countries, including Canada, refuse to recognise GDR passports, and insist that GDR citizens should get temporary travel papers from the "Allied Travel Office" in West Berlin, which was established in 1945 as a temporary post-war expedient. On April 2nd this year the NATO Council in Paris announced that GDR citizens, if travelling as individuals and not as members of teams, would be granted such temporary papers. The refusal of travel papers to Professor von Ardenne shows that this "concession" does not mean much. The GDR Government has called for dissolution of the Allied Travel Office, which has long outlived any useful purpose and is today simply a method of preventing GDR citizens from visiting NATO countries, even when invited by perfectly "respectable" scientific bodies.*

Top Physicists in E. Berlin

Some of the world's top physicists were guests of honour at the university congress in East Berlin's Humboldt University at the end of April. The distinguished guests included Dr Lise Meitner, co-discoverer of the theoretical basis for the splitting of the atom; Dr James Franck, USA, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1925; and Gustav Hertz of the GDR, who shared the Nobel Prize with Dr Franck in 1925.

GDR High on TV List

The German Democratic Republic has today the sixth highest figure for TV sets in Europe, according to figures prepared by the BBC. These statistics show that the GDR has about 14 TV sets per 100 inhabitants; it follows Britain (24), Sweden (22), Denmark (20), Monaco (17), West Germany (16); and is just ahead of Holland and Belgium with about 13 each.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

One of the odder, and lesser-known, features of the very odd Berlin situation is that the British, US and French military trains which run between West Germany and West Berlin are hauled through the intervening 100-mile stretch of the German Democratic Republic by locomotives of the GDR State Railways. This may be the only spot on earth where genuine full-blooded 100% American soldiers put themselves voluntarily under sinister "Red" guidance. Generally things go smoothly enough, but on May Day this year the GDR locomotives waiting to haul two US military trains were decorated, like all GDR locomotives on that day, with red flags.

This was too much for the American train commanders. They demanded that the flags be taken off. The GDR railwaymen politely shunted the US trains into a siding for a few hours, until midnight. May Day had then ended, the locomotives were de-decorated, and the journey could continue.

Curiously confusing cause and effect, the big West German newspaper "Die Welt" headlined its report of the incident "East Zone Authorities Delay US Military Trains".

* * *

A certain time-lag is inevitable in the news we give in GERMAN REPORT. First of all there is the usual gap between the time when the manuscript is sent to the printer, and the time when the machines turn out the finished paper; but in our case we have the extra difficulty that the vast mass of our readers live many hundreds or thousands of miles away, and we cannot afford to send the paper by airmail.

As a result, the news is at least some days, and in many cases some weeks, old before it reaches you. This sometimes creates all sorts of difficulties in planning what to put in the paper; is it worth reporting or commenting on something which will have long been overtaken by events when the reader gets the paper?

For this current issue the time gap is going to be even greater than usual, owing to a massive series of holidays in the GDR just when we are trying to put the paper to bed. The series starts with May Day, a public holiday here; and since May Day falls on a Friday, most factories, including our printers, decided to work a bit of overtime in the preceding week and take the Saturday off too to make a nice long weekend. This would be bad enough, but the following week is even worse. First comes May 7th, which you probably did not know was Ascension Day; for some reason nobody has ever been able to explain to me satisfactorily, this always has been, and still is, a public holiday in this part of Germany. This is followed immediately by May 8th, celebrated in the GDR, but not in West Germany, as the day of liberation from nazism; and after Liberation Day comes another Saturday, and for what happens on Saturdays following public holidays, see above. In order to get out GERMAN REPORT on time, I have to type these lines far in advance: I can only hope the weather will be fine.

A word or two on public holidays in the GDR might not be amiss: the main traditional holidays are celebrated, and in addition there are several new ones. Easter, Whitsun and Christmas are public holidays, as in England, plus New Year's Day as in Scotland. In addition there are May Day, Liberation Day, and October 7th, the anniversary of the foundation of the GDR. Then there are two other traditional Christian festivals, Ascension Day forty days after Easter, and Repentance Day, which falls sometime in November.

* * *

One of the series of war crimes trials now in process in West Germany is the trial of Otto Hunsche and Hermann Krumey, both charged with helping Adolf Eichmann to murder some 400,000 Hungarian Jews. The atmosphere for the trial was set on the opening day, when the judge patiently allowed the accused to protest at length that their cells were uncomfortable. Otto Hunsche told the court volubly with an expression of injured innocence, that he had had "a nice room with a large window in a suburban gaol" whilst awaiting trial; he thought it was unfair that he had now been put in a smaller cell. His co-murderer Hermann Krumey chimed in with a complaint that the prison beds were hard. Krumey's defence counsel suggested everything would be much cosier if he were allowed to drive the SS men to the trial every day in his private car, but the judge got up the courage to reject this kind offer.

Feeling that he might have been a little hard, however, the judge adjourned the hearing for a week when Krumey said, with tears in his eyes: "I was a judge once. I didn't realise how depressing it was to be a prisoner. I'm so depressed."

* * *

For so many years we have been reading in western papers of the "grey sad people of East Berlin" that it is a relief to hear from a similar source that the West Berliners are not overflowing with colour and joy. Writing in the London monthly "Encounter" this April, Welsh writer Goronwy Rees states: "In West Berlin ... in the streets the people look tired, they move slowly, like old people ..."

I can't imagine how a subversive sentence like this got into the pages of "Encounter", which has always been a staunch cold war organ; possibly heavily-bearded Melvin Lasky, the editor, one of the more frozen warriors, is now belatedly coming in out of the thaw.

* * *

Today I have a small confession to make; I have a secret weakness for puns, alliteration, and other verbal tricks, and long-term readers of GERMAN REPORT may have noticed that I sometimes let this hobby get the better of me in the composition of trick headlines for news items and articles in the paper.

You have been spared the worst owing to the vigilance of my colleagues on the staff of the paper; they toss out the crazier headlines as fast as I can compose them. In this issue, for instance, we print an article by British historian Richard Gott; I had a hankering to run it under the title "Gott Mit Uns" (God with Us), the German Imperial motto on the belt buckles of the soldiers of the Kaiser's Army; for better or for worse they talked me out of it.

* * *

General Motors, that vast American trust, can scarcely be suspected of making "red propaganda", but I was intrigued to see that at this year's World's Fair in New York the car makers were handing out lapel buttons marked "I have seen the future".

The quotation is incomplete. When Lincoln Steffens, noted American progressive writer, returned from a visit to the Soviet Union in the 1920s, he met banker Bernard Baruch who said: "So you've been over into Russia?". Lincoln Steffens replied: "I have seen the future and it works".

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